



## Enabling Source Water Protection: Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Programs

A Joint Project of The Trust for Public Land  
and The Smart Growth Leadership Institute

*in partnership with  
The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and River Network  
funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

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### **New Hampshire Kick Off Meeting Summary**

On March 3, 2008, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) hosted a kick off meeting for the state's participation in a national demonstration project entitled *Enabling Source Water Protection: Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Programs*. About 70 people with various concerns, interests and expertise in land use and water protection attended (see list below).

The purpose of the meeting was to help project team members from the national organizations involved to better understand what opportunities might exist to better align state programs to enhance water protection.

DES Commissioner Thomas Burack opened the meeting, calling attention to the connection between land use and water quality, and challenging the group to focus on how state policies and programs could be improved. Amy Ignatius, Director of the Office of Energy and Planning, reiterated the importance of examining how state policies and programs could support local and regional efforts to manage growth to better protect natural resources as well as the quality of life that New Hampshire residents and visitors cherish.

Paul Susca, supervisor of the Planning, Protection and Assistance section of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, summarized the responses to an informal survey about the top threats to water resources and programs that might provide opportunities for realignment (see attached summary).

Caryn Ernst, project director from The Trust for Public Land, described the overall process for the project, introduced the team members from the four national organizations, and gave instructions to the participants concerning their participation in break out groups, focused on:

- Growth management
- Ground and surface water protection
- Land Conservation

Each breakout group considered what programs they thought presented the greatest opportunities for enhancing source water protection; what key issues and barriers prevent improved program alignment, and what opportunities there might be for overcoming such barriers.

At the end of the meeting, the participants reconvened in one large group to report on and discuss the break out group recommendations. The following key points emerged.

Recognizing that water resources transcend political and programmatic boundaries, it was suggested that we need to work together at the resource level (e.g., watersheds and aquifers) on:

### **Data Integration**

- Centralize information (e.g., monitoring results and priorities) to better identify high-priority lands for conservation. It was noted that this would require improved funding for information technology in the state (e.g., the N.H. Geological Survey and NH GRANIT at UNH)
- Make data accessible to local and regional users

### **Education/Training/Technical Assistance**

- Deliver training and assistance at the local level, and diversify the audience to ensure that the voluntary, high-turnover workforce that constitutes key decision makers (e.g., planning and zoning boards, and other local officials) is well informed
- Provide incentives for appropriate actions; keep in mind that Article 28-a of the NH Constitution requires funding for any new requirements, i.e., there should be no unfunded mandates
- Be consistent and coordinated with messages
- Address concerns about LID and smart growth liabilities
- Provide interactive information, e.g., GIS based, not paper maps
- There may be a role for existing groups, such as Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), however they would need support of technical experts from the state. The RPC “circuit rider” concept and DOT’s locally-driven context-sensitive solutions approach may serve as models. A key barrier is that municipalities have to pay for RPC services, therefore, funding for these services would be needed. Note: Additional suggestions on existing groups that could provide training and assistance were submitted by participants on index cards at the end of the meeting. The two groups cited were the NH Local Government Center (LGC) and the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC).

### **Rules and Regulations**

- Coordinated permitting might be used as an incentive for “smart growth”
- Growth regulation should be considered in sensitive areas (e.g., aquifers)
- There is a need to audit existing programs and regulations as well as new and soon to be updated laws and rules to search for opportunities to promote smart growth and water resource protection

## **Funding**

- Coordination between funding programs and bundling of funding could improve resource protection
- Infrastructure investments should guide smart growth

## **Next Steps**

Over the course of the next several months, the project team will consider the input from the kick off meeting as well as interviews with key stakeholders. They will use this information to guide their review of state programs. Following their examination of policies and program management mechanisms, the team will develop customized recommendations based on the state's particular constraints and capabilities. For example, existing funding mechanisms will be examined to identify opportunities related to priorities, criteria, eligibilities and analyses are undertaken to determine the need for and capacity to create new financing tools. The reviewers also will identify mechanisms that other states have successfully used to align policies to support water resource protection goals.

In June, the project team will bring their recommendations to stakeholders at an Action Plan Workshop. At that time, participants will review the recommendations and craft a written action plan with clear identification of short- and long-term implementation steps and responsibilities.

*Attachment: Powerpoint presentation regarding survey results*

**Land & Water Kickoff  
Attendees 3/3/08\***

First Name	Last Name	Title	Affiliation
ERICA	ANDERSON		LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
CAROL	ANDREWS	Executive Director	NH ASSOC. OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS
TOM	BALLESTERO	Director	UNH Stormwater Center
BILL	CARPENTER		NH DRED
JO ANNE	CARR		GRANITE STATE RURAL WATER
LIVIA	CROWLEY	Hydrologist	US FOREST SERVICE
Jennifer	Czysz	Senior Planner	NH Office of Energy and Planning
BART	CUSHING		N.H. WATER WELL BOARD
JEFF	DEACON		USGS
PATRICIA	DEBEER		FREMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
KERRIE	DIERS		NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
THOMAS	FARGO	Representative	GROUNDWATER COMMISSION
BRIAN	GALLAGHER		UNH/DURHAM WATER SYSTEM
GARRETT	GRAASKAMP		AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST
LOUISE	HANNAN		NH DHHS HEALTH OFFICER LIAISON
DOUG	HEATH		US EPA
EUGENE	HEIGHTON		HERTC
MARK	HEMMERLEIN		NH DOT
AMY	IGNATIUS	Director	NH OEP
ROB	JOHNSON		NH FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
CORDELL	JOHNSTON		LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
STEVE	KAHL		PLYMOUTH STATE UNIV. CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
KEN	KIMBALL		APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
JULIE	LABRANCHE		STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DAVID	MACLEAN		GEO INSIGHT
JOHN	MAGEE		NH Fish & Game
KIM	MCCRACKEN		USDA-NRCS
BECKY	MCENROE		PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS
Lorraine	Merrill	Commissioner	Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
JIM	MOORE		Southern New Hampshire RC&D Area Council Inc.
PAUL	MORIN		NH Homebuilders & Remodelers Assoc
ADAIR	MULLIGAN		CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSION
JACK	MUNN		SOUTHERN NH REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TIM	MURPHY	Executive Director	SOUTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PHILLIP	O'BRIEN		N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee
DAN	PARADIS		PEMIGEWASSET RIVER LAC
CARL	PAULSON		N.H. Rivers Couoncil
KATHERINE	PETERS		OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JULIA	PETERSON		UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
NORM	PROVENCHER		PEMBROKE WATER WORKS
Barbara	Richter		Society for the Protection of NH Forests
DARI	SASSAN		OEP

DONALD	SIENKIEWICZ		Real estate attorney
CLIFF	SINNOTT		ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
BARBARA	SKULY		ASHUELOT RIVER LAC
DEREK	SOWERS		NH ESTUARIES PROJECT
JUDITH T.	SPANG	Representative	NH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAX	STAMP		PEMIGEWASSET RIVER LAC
TERRI	SWAIN		CAPITAL WELL CO.
			MAINE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM,
ANDREWS	TOLMAN		DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
		Executive	
DEB	TURCOTT	Director	Land & Community Heritage Investment Program
			DEPARTMENT OF AGR- DIVISION OF
RICHARD	UNCLES	Director	REGULATORY SERVICES
			UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE REGIONAL
CHRISTINE	WALKER		PLANNING COMMIS
DONALD	WARE		HANOVER WATER WORKS CO
SHARON	WASON		CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING COMM
BILL	WATSON		NH DOT
MASON	WESTFALL		NH ASSOC OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS
MARK	ZANKEL		The Nature Conservancy

NHDES staff not included